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### UM school of education celebrates 75th anniversary

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 7, 2005

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### **UM SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

#### **MISSOULA--**

The University of Montana School of Education kicks off its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with a reception and lecture Tuesday, Feb. 15, on campus.

The reception will be held at 7 p.m. in Urey Lecture Hall. Joanne Yatvin, a member of the National Reading Panel and faculty member at Portland State University, will present "Half-Truths in Advertising: The Politicization of Reading Research in the 21st Century" at 7:30 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

"Dr. Yatvin speaks about how it is important for a university to take what we learn in research and use it to improve all our educational systems," said School of Education Dean Paul Rowland. "We do a lot of research in the School of Education and we are here to benefit the rest of the University and community."

Yatvin has worked in public education for more than 40 years as a teacher, principal, university instructor and district superintendent. She also is active in the National Council of Teachers of English, the International Reading Association and their state and local affiliates. She has written extensively about different aspects of education, and her articles have been published in many magazines and newspapers, including the New York Times and Education Week. Her first book, "A Room With a Differentiated View: How to Serve All Children as Individual Leaders," was published last year.

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piece gun or your grandmother's antique silver," said McCrea, who as University archivist is charged with restoring and protecting the library's valuable historic collections.

Photographs are best kept in a cool, dry and dark environment. Most important is to avoid rapid shifts in temperature and humidity.

"The key is keeping things at a stable temperature and humidity, like a bedroom or a finished basement," McCrea said. "You want to avoid things like damp basements and hot attics."

Also beware of storing items where pipes may leak or flooding may occur.

Sunlight, even indirect, can fade photographs and documents over time, so it may be a good idea to frame copies and store the originals in a dark place. "There's a tradeoff between enjoying your family treasures and protecting them," McCrea said. "It depends on the intrinsic value to you – whether you want to see the original on the wall every day or if a high-quality reproduction would give you just as much satisfaction."

Professional photo labs can produce high-quality film, digital and print copies of photographs, and may also offer retouching and restoration work. Inexpensive color photocopies can be made at print shops; this is a good choice for preserving the look of original documents. Another option is to copy photos at home using daylight (for accurate color balance) and a good film or digital camera with macro settings. Yet another possibility is using a home computer scanner and color printer.

Separate photographs from materials that will leach destructive acids or "offgas" fumes: newsprint, cardboard, paper, plastic, negatives, film, glassine envelopes, blueprints and wood.

"Newsprint and cardboard are so acidic and were never intended to last," she said. "The acid bleeds onto things it touches. It's worth it to take the time to remove the clippings and cardboard."

Many older scrapbooks and photo albums are constructed of nonarchival materials.



However, your grandmother's old scrapbook – with her newspaper clippings, dance cards and handwritten captions – may be too priceless to dismantle. "Should you take apart old scrapbooks to save individual items?" she asks. "You have to decide how important the original is. Most of the time we do not dismantle scrapbooks because of the value of the context."

When you purchase new storage and display materials, look for the keywords "acid-free," "archival," "lignin-free" or "100 percent rag." If you can afford it, store items in archival boxes rather than plastic or cardboard; but if you can't, even lining the box with acid-free paper will help. Documents and photos may be separated with archival folders or acid-free paper. "A lot of regular copy paper these days is acid-free," McCrea said.

Remove paper clips, which may rust, and rubber bands, which deteriorate. Don't use magnetic pages or tape, whose adhesives will speed deterioration. "Also, don't laminate anything important," she said. "It's great for everyday use, but the deterioration continues even in the laminate and it is not a reversible process. It all depends on how you want to use it."

Unfold documents. "It's best to store things open and flat rather than folded and creased," she said. "Over time, those creases will become brittle and crack."

Damaged materials, especially valuable ones, may require the skills of a professional conservator. McCrea recommends seeking a reputable specialist – whether in paper, photographs, art, books and so forth – by contacting museums, library archives and historical societies. "You have to be extremely careful," she said. "Ask for references; talk to other customers."

### **Organize and Display**

McCrea recommends labeling photos before anything else. "Labeling is so important," she says. "It's time-intensive, but unidentified photos don't have as much meaning. Sit with Grandma and label them."

Use a pencil or archival-quality pen to label the backs of photographs. "Be sure they're dry before letting them touch anything, especially the front of another photo," she says.



What if you want to display original photographs? "It's OK to hang them on the wall – that's why you took them, so you could enjoy them – but get them matted in archival mats, frame them behind UV filtering glass and keep them out of the sunlight," McCrea said.

A range of archival storage and display options are available. Choose from store-bought photo albums, hand-crafted scrapbooks, binders with polypropylene pages or Mylar sheet protectors, or boxes made of archival paper, plastic or metal.

The advance of digital photography means taking an extra step to order prints from a photo lab or online service or to make them on a home printer. Digital images should be converted to negatives and prints or backed up to CD or DVD.

As technology evolves, it's important to migrate materials into new formats. "You don't want important things stuck on a five-inch floppy or eight-track tape," she said. "But keep your originals, because sometimes quality is lost in migration, and you may want to copy directly to the latest format."

### **Collect and Conserve**

In addition to preserving photographs and memorabilia, McCrea said, families should collect their oral histories. "So much of our history is oral," she said. "Oral histories are a way to record memories that might not be captured in a photo. Ask people about their marriage or what it was like living through World War II or even Vietnam. Ask questions like: 'How did you get your first job?' 'What was it like growing up on the farm?'"

McCrea says the Mansfield Library, and probably other libraries as well, will occasionally loan people a cassette recorder in exchange for a copy of the interview.

Finally, McCrea urged Montanans to donate collections to the local library, state archives or historical society. "If people are cleaning out attics and don't know what to do with things like business records, letters, diaries and photographs, don't throw them away without contacting your local archives," she said. "Many will happily collect them."



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For more information, visit UM's K. Ross Toole Archives online at  
<http://www.lib.umt.edu/dept/arch/arch.htm> or call (406) 243-2053.

#### LINKS OF INTEREST

Light Impressions archival supplies <http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com>

Northeast Document Conservation Center <http://www.nedcc.org/>

Library of Congress Preservation <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/>

Conservation OnLine <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/>

About Scrapbooking <http://scrapbooking.about.com/>

Montana Historical Society <http://www.his.state.mt.us/>

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